



Nevermore



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Chapter 1 by Iris Dietz

"Hurry!" the voices called. "Hurry!"

Maximus wrapped his cloak of black raven feathers around him. The soft, silky black fur lining the cloak had been Tessa's idea. Oh, how he wished Tessa were here.

"Hurry!" The voices melted together to form one whisper. "They are coming."

"Don't look," it whispered. So, of course, Maximus glanced behind him.

It was a strange creature, one not of the Blue Ages, and for the second time that day Maximus wondered if some of the creatures from the Red Age were still alive. Because if anything, that is what that creature was.

The flesh on its horrid, twisted face was melted down one side, and even from a distance gave off a stench of blood, coffee, and rotten eggs. It was a strange combination of purple, chocolate, fiery red, and bright yellow with weird greenish white patches. Its lower body had eight legs, like an enlarged spider, and it had two arms wrapped in sterile white cloth, stark against its natural colors. In one seven fingered hand it grasped a double edged blade sword, half iron, half copper, for killing both mortals and immortals. Maximus had only heard of three such items that could kill immortals. His hand unconsciously touched the pendant hanging around his throat.

It hung from a soft leather cord, a glowing green stone encased with tongues of black copper

winding around it. Kalasrith: The death stone.

Maximus picked up his pace, wishing the tundra was icy and rocks jutted up here and there.

The creature was gaining.

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Chapter 2 by Lisa Smick



speed. "Oh, I wish Tessa was here to guide me with the Kalastrite stone," he thought. There were only a few "blessed" to gain its powers. Tessa and I were in that few. We had been battling in the Red Zone for what seemed decades, until we were separated by the upcoming Blue Zone. "I've got to gain speed on this monstrous site!" he cried. "Damn ugly" he moaned as he looked back again. "They" were right behind that evil creation, urging it to go faster. Maximus grasped the stone as if it was his only hope. He prayed to the Air Mother. "Please, if anyway possible, end this treacherous nightmare!!!". Suddenly, the Kalastrite stone began to glow again. That bright green light meant salvation! He could hear a faint voice, once again, "place the stone upon the icy ground". Maximus thought he was losing his mind. "There is no time to stop and put this stone down!" he told himself. "Shut up and let me run!!!". The voices repeated louder..."put the stone on the ground!". In his panic confusion, he tripped over a protruding rock and fell, having no choice but to land the stone on the ground. Suddenly, a bright green mist enveloped him, picking his weary body above the mountains. "Air Mother?" he gasped.

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